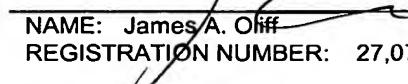


FORM PTO-1390 (REV. 01-2003)		US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER 12361-1 <i>SPS</i>
<b>TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371</b>		U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5) 10/532,788	
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/JP2003/011860		INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE September 17, 2003	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED November 1, 2002
TITLE OF INVENTION TUBE CONNECTING APPARATUS			
APPLICANTS FOR DO/EO/US Hiroaki SANO et al.			
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>FIRST</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</li> <li>2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</li> <li>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below.</li> <li>4. <input type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected (Article 31).</li> <li>5. <input type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).</li> <li>b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau.</li> <li>c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto.</li> <li>b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</li> <li>c. <input type="checkbox"/> The International Application was filed in English.</li> </ol> </li> <li>7. <input type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).</li> <li>b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau.</li> <li>c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.</li> <li>d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made.</li> </ol> </li> <li>8. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).</li> <li>9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).</li> <li>10. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).</li> </ol>			
Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.</li> <li>12. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.</li> <li>13. <input type="checkbox"/> A preliminary amendment.</li> <li>14. <input type="checkbox"/> An Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76.</li> <li>15. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification.</li> <li>16. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A power of attorney and/or change of address letter.</li> <li>17. <input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 37 CFR 1.821 - 1.825.</li> <li>18. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</li> <li>19. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</li> <li>20. <input type="checkbox"/> Other items or information:</li> </ol>			

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5) 10/532,788		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/JP2003/011860		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 123618	
21. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted:				CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY	
<b>BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492(a)):</b> ..... \$ 300.00		\$			
<b>SEARCH FEE (37 CFR 1.492(b)(1)-(3)):</b>		\$			
International search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO as ISA ..... \$ 100.00					
International search report provided to USPTO no later than the time at which the search fee is paid ..... \$ 400.00					
All situations not provided for above ..... \$ 500.00					
<b>EXAMINATION FEE (37 CFR 1.492(c)(1)-(2)):</b>		\$			
International preliminary examination report prepared by the USPTO as IPEA and favorable as to novelty, inventive step, and industrial applicability for all claims presented in the application entering the national stage ..... \$ 100.00					
All situations not provided for above ..... \$ 200.00					
Surcharge of <b>\$130.00</b> for furnishing the oath or declaration later than 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).		\$130.00			
TOTAL PAGES OF APPLICATION OVER 100 ( - 100) round up to next integer		÷ 50	= †	x 250 =	\$
CLAIMS		NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	\$
TOTAL CLAIMS		- 20	=	x 50.00 =	\$
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS		- 3	=	x 200.00 =	\$
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S)(if applicable)				+ 360.00 =	\$
		<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =</b>			\$130.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by ½.		<b>SUBTOTAL =</b>			\$130.00
Processing fee of <b>\$130.00</b> for furnishing the English translation later than 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).		<b>TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =</b>			\$130.00
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). <b>\$40.00</b> per property +					\$
05/24/2005 MKAYPAGH 00000031 10532788		<b>TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =</b>			\$130.00
01 FC#1617 130.00 OP		Amount to be refunded: \$ charged: \$			
<p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check No. <u>166804</u> in the amount of <u>\$130.00</u> to cover the above fees is enclosed.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$_____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</p> <p>c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <u>15-0461</u>. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</p> <p>d. <input type="checkbox"/> Fees are to be charged to a credit card. <b>WARNING:</b> Information on this form may become public. <b>Credit card information should not be included on this form.</b> Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.</p>					
<p><b>NOTE:</b> Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.</p> <p>SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: OLIFF &amp; BERRIDGE, PLC Customer Number: 25944</p> <p>Date <u>May 20, 2005</u></p>					
<p> NAME: James A. Oliff REGISTRATION NUMBER: 27,075</p> <p> NAME: Jesse O. Collier REGISTRATION NUMBER: 53,839</p>					